

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

10 a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of a knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail, and a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

20 2. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has a handle support for engaging a handle of a knife.

25 3. The knife sharpening system of claim 2, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving a handle of the knife.

4. The knife sharpening system of claim 2, wherein the handle support has a peg for engagement with a peg receiving aperture in a handle of the knife.

25 5. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.

30 6. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the base portion has two guide rails and the knife support means will support a knife in two, flipped over, orientations.

7. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the guide rail is curved to match a curved knife for which the knife 5 sharpening system is used to sharpen.

8. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the sharpening implement is a sharpening stone.

10 9. The knife sharpening system of claim 1, wherein the sharpening implement sits on the blade at a predetermined sharpening angle.

10. A knife sharpening system for sharpening blade edges of knives, comprising:

at least one knife having a predetermined handle and blade size, shape, and blade edge angle;

a base portion having an elongate guide rail having a top surface at a first level, a knife support means for maintaining a blade of the knife being sharpened with its blade edge spaced apart by a horizontal distance from the guide rail and for elevating the blade on a plane at a second level which is higher than the top surface of the guide rail;

25 and a sharpening implement which is longer than the distance between the guide rail and the blade edge.

11. The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has a handle support for engaging the handle of the knife.

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12. The knife sharpening system of claim 11, wherein the handle support has a relief for receiving the handle of the knife.

13. The knife sharpening system of claim 11, wherein the knife has an aperture formed in its handle, and the base portion has 5 a peg for engagement with the aperture.

14. The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has a blade platform upon which the blade of the knife will sit.

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15. The knife sharpening system of claim 10, wherein the base portion has two guide rails and the knife support means will support a knife in two, flipped over, orientations.

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16. A method for sharpening knives which places a precise sharpened edge angle on the knife's blade, comprising the steps of:

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providing a knife with a particular handle and blade with a predetermined length, blade shape, and blade edge angle, and type of edge;

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providing a base having a knife holder which holds the knife's handle and blade in a predetermined position, a guide rail which is horizontally spaced apart from knife holder, the guide rail having a top edge which is lower than the blade;

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providing a sharpening implement with is longer than the distance between the knife's edge placed on the base and the guide rail;

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moving the sharpening implement across the blade and the guide rail to sharpen the knife's edge at a predetermined blade angle.

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